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that the diminished force of gravity on *Mars* would render the work of excavating a ditch 70 feet deep equal to a terrestrial one of 26 feet, it was calculated that the canals would contain about 1,634,000 of our Suez Canals, and would require an army of 200,000,000 of men, working for 1000 of our years, for their construction. Assuming that the population varies with the surface, since the area of the earth is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times greater than that of *Mars*, we should get a Martian population of about 409,000,000. All the adult males, and a large number of the women, must, therefore, have engaged in the great work.

“The writer supposed the ‘canals’ to be great fissures caused by the cracking of the surface in contraction due to cooling, the planet having reached a considerably more advanced stage in its life than the Earth.

“A slide having been shown, representing the general canal system as given by SCHIAPARELLI, the President (Mr. E. W. MAUNDER, of the Greenwich Observatory,) said he hoped that Mr. ORR’s statistical, but, nevertheless, amusing and instructive, paper might prove one more nail in the coffin of a very absurd idea, which had certainly got most undue currency — namely, that the canals on *Mars* could possibly be the work of human agents. The mere fact that the whole of the resources of one of the greatest nations in Europe had failed to dig a little ditch some 26 miles long, and, comparatively speaking, only a few feet wide, might, he thought, convince us that the people on *Mars*, supposing there were any, could scarcely excavate 80,000 or 100,000 miles of canals, 40 miles wide.”

#### CORRECTION TO HUSSEY’S LOG. TABLES.

Page 95: log. sin.  $33^{\circ} 44'$ , should be 9.74455 in place of 9.74555.  
R. H. T.

#### THE ROSSI-FOREL SCALE OF EARTHQUAKE INTENSITY.

As a ready means of defining the intensity of a shock of earthquake from the ordinary descriptions of its effects, the ROSSI-FOREL scale will be found convenient, and is reprinted from *Archives des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles*, Geneva, February, 1884, Vol. XI, page 148.

In discussing the reports of shocks which occurred between 1850 and 1887, Professor HOLDEN was led to make some addi-